

REMARKS

In response to the Official Action mailed December 13, 2002, Applicants amend their application and request reconsideration. In this Amendment, claim 7 is cancelled and no claims are added. Accordingly, claims 1-6 and 8-13 are now pending.

The drawings were objected to with regard to the use of the number 42. The basis of the objection is a typographical error in the patent application that is corrected in this Amendment. No drawing correction is required.

Claims 3-6 and 9-12 were rejected as indefinite because of the possibility that the silicone resins described in those claims, due to an inadvertent error, might not exist. The intended description, as pointed out by the Examiner, is adopted. This amendment overcomes the rejection of the claims as indefinite as well as the corresponding claim objections.

The Examiner noted that an error had been made in an Information Disclosure Statement in identifying a reference cited in a search report for a corresponding patent application. The error is regretted. An English language abstract of the correct publication was submitted although a copy of an incorrect publication was submitted. The Examiner's correction of this error is greatly appreciated.

An additional Information Disclosure Statement is now supplied citing a co-pending U.S. patent application and the published PCT patent application on which that U.S. patent application is based. The inventorship and ownership is identical to the present patent application. In addition, a publication supplied in the examination of the co-pending patent application is supplied in the new Information Disclosure Statement.

Claims 5, 6, 11, and 12 were stated to be allowable and do not need further comment. Those four claims are clearly patentable.

In this Amendment the claimed invention is limited to a magnetoresistance sensor element and a method of making that magnetoresistance sensor element. All claims have been amended to make clear the scope of the invention claimed. Claim 7 is cancelled as inconsistent with this description.

Claims 1-3, 8, 9, and 13 were rejected as anticipated by Kinjo et al. (U.S. Patent 4,473,813, hereinafter Kinjo).

As acknowledged by the Examiner, Kinjo concerns a humidity sensor, not a magnetoresistance sensor as in the invention and that includes a generally planar sensing portion including relatively thin, i.e., slender, wires or conductors that are supported by a substrate. In conventional magnetoresistance sensors, these conductors, because of their small dimensions, are subject to movement in position when stresses are applied. If the

conductors change position, the characteristics of the magnetoresistance sensor are adversely affected. This problem is described in the patent application from page 13, line 18 through page 14, line 10. The same passage describes the solution provided in the invention, the provision of a silicone resin film producing a low residual stress on the slender wires so that shifting of position of the wires is not likely to occur. Moreover, as described in that passage, the resin films as described and claimed in the present patent application provide improved heat resistance that withstands the process of manufacturing the magnetoresistance sensor element.

The rejection cannot be properly maintained since Kinjo does not describe a magnetoresistant sensor having the structure described in the amended claims nor, therefore, the claimed process. Therefore, the rejection based upon Kinjo should be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 7 were rejected as anticipated by Nakai (JP 60-62278). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Nakai is directed to an image sensor, as recognized by the Examiner. Since the invention does not concern an image sensor but concerns a magnetoresistance sensor, neither of claims 1 and 7 can be anticipated by Nakai. Thus, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 7 were rejected as anticipated by Takahashi (JP 4-184160). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Like Kinjo, Takahashi is directed to a humidity sensor. Therefore, for the same reasons already supplied with respect to Kinjo, Takahashi cannot anticipate either of claims 1 and 7.

Claims 4 and 10 were rejected as unpatentable over Kazahaya (JP 5-335613) in view of Miyata et al. (U.S. Patent 5,888,846, hereinafter Miyata). To the extent understood, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

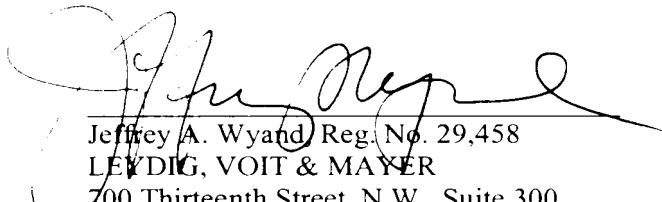
Claims 4 and 10 are dependent claims that include similar limitations, claim 4 being directed to a structure and claim 10 being directed to a method of making a structure. Neither Kazahaya nor Miyata was employed in rejecting the independent claims 1 and 8, from which claims 4 and 10 ultimately, respectively, depend. Reliance is placed upon description in Kazahaya of a diamond film and on Miyata with regard to a diamond substrate, presumably to supply a basis for the combination. However, even assuming that that similarity provides adequate basis for asserting various parts of the two disclosures can be combined, it is apparent that neither disclosure concerns a magnetoresistance sensor. Kazahaya concerns an ultraviolet light detecting device and Miyata relates to a method of processing diamond films in the course of making electronic devices. No suggestion has been found in either reference or in the rejection for anything relating to a magnetoresistance sensor. Thus, in combination,

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Kazahaya and Miyata cannot include all of the elements of either of claims 4 and 10. Therefore, that combination cannot suggest either of those claims. The rejection should be withdrawn.

All claims now pending are in proper form and distinguish from the references applied in rejecting the claims. Therefore, all claims now pending, claims 1-6 and 8-13, should be promptly allowed.

Respectfully submitted,


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